

**Submission
No 95**

INQUIRY INTO PRIVATISATION OF BUS SERVICES

Name: Ms Claire Bettington

Date Received: 26 March 2022

RE: BUSES IN THE EASTERN SUBURBS - CANCELLATION OF ROUTES TOTALLY UNJUSTIFIED!
PLEASE REINSTATE IMMEDIATELY!!

I am completely disgusted and horrified that State Government has cancelled so many of our Eastern Suburbs bus routes which we heavily relied on.

EXAMPLES:

- The 400 bus used to be every 10 minutes, always packed to overflowing - now gone;
- The 317 was handy to go "across country" from Maroubra to Randwick and thence to Bondi Junction - through large public housing estates where many people rely on this bus as they cannot afford a car;
- The 395 from Maroubra to the Railway has been totally cancelled, so that now one has to change transport several times, including one leg on the "Light Rail" that NO ONE WANTED, YET IT WAS FOISTED UPON US AT THE COST OF \$1m PER METRE!!

The Light Rail is as slow as a month of wet weekends! I ask this: how could SO MUCH money, thought, engineering know-how, and determination to build it - against the wishes of so many - end up being such a TOTAL FAILURE? If only the State Government had read the EIS (as I did) which stated the Light Rail would not improve journey times, and was therefore a total waste of money & effort!

And to think of the consequences of the Light Rail: Hundreds of businesses bankrupted along the route; proximity to Light Rail being used as justification to further densify Kingsford & Kensington with massive high-rise (no doubt at the behest of the Liberal government's developer mates & donors); several hundred mature shade trees murdered - even some of the 150 yr old Fig trees along Anzac Parade were sacrificed - the trees that saw the ANZACS march to war from Randwick barracks, along Anzac Parade, down to Woolloomooloo, never to return from Gallipoli & France in WWI; the amenity of the streets downgraded as trees were removed & never replaced, and parking removed so that people on the footpath are now exposed to 4 lanes of traffic & fumes in each direction; the forest of poles and overhead wires rendering the treeless streetscape ugly and uninviting; the "Parramatta Road-isation" of Anzac Parade from the City to Kingsford. In short, we got a worse service at vast expense, mega disruption, a diminution of amenity and a great deal of anger and misery! It should NEVER have been built!

Yet now that the Light Rail is in place, we are more or less forced to use it, or we have to rely more on our cars - the exact thing which the Light Rail promised to free us from!

And now this! - The presence of the Light Rail apparently justifies the removal of bus services, most of which do NOT run on the route of the Light Rail - truly impeccable logic!

There is only one explanation: the Liberal state government are still wedded to the (bankrupt) ideology of the "market", which demands they make money from PUBLIC assets; privatise anything and everything for your mates; smash the unions who fight for great conditions and good wages for bus drivers; and "TOUGH SHIT" to all the little ordinary people who are inconvenienced or worse.

If it's not that, then it is corruption. I think it might be a combination of both!

So what do I want?

- Immediate reinstatement of all bus drivers, partially modified bus routes and cancelled bus routes;
- No further privatisation;
- Do what governments are supposed to do in return for taxation: PROVIDE PUBLIC SERVICES FOR THE PEOPLE!!!
- Or implement other ideas for bus routes -

EXAMPLE: In the UK, in any major town or city, there are carparks on the periphery, where one can hop on a small bus - on demand, or every 10-15 minutes - to take you to the centre, or across the suburbs. THIS IS NOT ROCKET SCIENCE!

Yours very sincerely

Angry resident,

C Bettington